



Nicolet Minerals

a Rio Algom company

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October 28, 2003

Elizabeth Kluesner
Executive Assistant
Office of the Secretary
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
101 South Webster Street
Madison WI 53707



Via Fax (608) 266-6983 and U.S. Mail

RE: Crandon Mine - Permit Application

Dear Ms. Kluesner

As you know, the Sokaogon Chippewa Community has acquired the ownership interests of Nicolet Minerals Company ("NMC"). It is NMC's current view that the pending permit application to develop a sulfide zinc and copper mine at the headwaters of the Wolf River poses intolerable risks to the fragile natural and cultural resources of this region. There are also no imaginable permit conditions that would protect these resources over the long term and allow this project to be economically feasible.

Some of the engineering features proposed in this application have never been tried in a project of this size in an area enveloped by such vast quantities of pristine and irreplaceable water resources. Since most of the proposed pollution prevention technology for this project has eventually failed over the long term, it is highly likely that the citizens of this State would eventually be faced with the burdens of clean up costs in perpetuity if this project were built as designed.

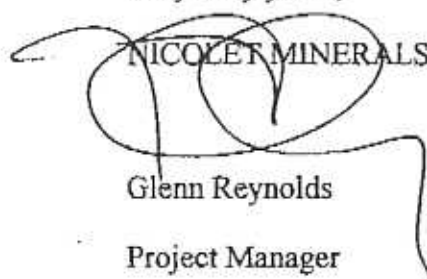
Given the number of sulfide mines that have caused catastrophic water pollution in North America and the lack of reliable data to suggest that modern sulfide mining technology has improved sufficiently to justify taking the risks that this project poses, it is doubtful that NMC could, in good faith, meet its burden of proof under the Wisconsin Mining Moratorium Law. For these and other reasons, NMC has decided to withdraw its pending mining permit application before the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. NMC has also requested withdrawal of the pending 404 permit before the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. NMC therefore respectfully

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requests that the DNR discontinue all work on the permit application including tasks performed by DNR staff and hired consultants.

NMC appreciates the dedicated work of all the DNR staff and consultants who have worked on this complex and controversial project over the years. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Very truly yours,


NICOLET MINERALS COMPANY
Glenn Reynolds
Project Manager

cc: Governor James Doyle
Secretary Scott Hassett
Larry Lynch
Charles Hammer
Michael Lutz
Jon Ahlness
Chairperson Sandra Rachal
Vice Chairperson Tina Van Zile
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